

CLAIMS

102-119. Canceled.

120. (Currently Amended) An active user registry system responsive to a request for communications contact information corresponding to a user, comprising:

a. a computer;

b. a database, linked to the computer, containing communications information for contacting the user including a user identifier, a plurality of communications addresses and information corresponding to the user's preferred communications options; wherein the system determines a communications address for contacting the user in accordance with a comparison between a communications option accompanying the request and the user's preferred communications options; and

The system according to claim 119, c. a cache coupled to the database for storing information, for a particular subscriber, corresponding to an entry point to communications information for contacting the user stored in the database;

wherein the information stored in the cache for a particular subscriber is updated in accordance with a pattern of communications options utilized over time by the subscriber upon access to the database.

121-122. Canceled.

123. (Currently Amended) An active user registry system responsive to a request for communications contact information corresponding to a user, comprising:

a. a computer, and;

b. a database, linked to the computer, containing communications information for contacting the user including a user identifier, a plurality of communications addresses and information corresponding to the user's preferred communications options; wherein the system determines a communications address for contacting the user in accordance with a comparison between a communications option accompanying the request and the user's preferred communications options;

The system according to claim 102, wherein information corresponding to the user's preferred communications options is automatically learned in accordance with how the user interacts with communication attempts from other persons.

124-131. Canceled.

132. (Previously Presented) An active user registry system responsive to a request for communications contact information corresponding to a user, comprising:

- a. a computer; and
- b. a database, linked to the computer, containing communications information for contacting the user including a user identifier, a plurality of communications addresses and information corresponding to the user's preferred communications options; wherein information corresponding to the user's preferred communications options is automatically learned in accordance with how the user interacts with communication attempts from other persons.

133. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 132, wherein the user identifier includes information representing at least one of the user's identity, the user's title, the user's occupation or personal information corresponding to the user.

134. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 132, wherein the plurality of communications addresses includes an address for contacting the user by telephone, an address for contacting the user by e-mail, an address for contacting the user by facsimile, and a current address for making direct communications contact with the user.

135. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 134, wherein the plurality of communications addresses further includes an address for contacting the user by videophone.

136. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 134, wherein the plurality of communications addresses further includes an address for contacting the user by voice messaging.

137. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 134, wherein the plurality of communications addresses further includes an address for contacting the user by real-time IP messaging.

138. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 134, wherein the plurality of communications addresses further includes a URL-compatible address for linking to a Web page associated with the user.

139. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 132, wherein the information corresponding to the user's preferred communications options includes a communications option and at least one of the time of day, the day of the week, or information representing the identity of a person attempting to contact the user.

140. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 132, wherein the information corresponding to the user's preferred communications options includes information received over a communications link from a personal information source associated with the user.

141. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 132, further comprising a voice interface for enabling interaction with, and control and management of, the system from any available voice-compatible communication interface.

142. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 132, further comprising a cache coupled to the database for storing information, for a particular subscriber, corresponding to an entry point to communications information for contacting the user stored in the database.

143. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 142, wherein the information stored in the cache for a particular subscriber is updated in accordance with a pattern of communications options utilized over time by the subscriber upon access to the database.

144-172. Canceled.

173. (Currently Amended) A method of operating an active user registry service accessible over a communications network, comprising the steps of
a. receiving a request for communications contact information corresponding to a user;
b. searching a database containing communications information for contacting the user including a user identifier, a plurality of communications addresses and information corresponding to the user's preferred communications options; and
c. determining a communications address for contacting the user in accordance with a comparison between a communications option accompanying the request and the user's preferred communications options;
wherein the step of receiving a request for a communications address for contacting the user includes the step of retrieving from a cache maintained for a subscriber information corresponding to an entry point to communications information for contacting the user stored in the database;

The method according to claim 172, and wherein the information stored in the cache maintained for a subscriber is updated in accordance with a pattern of communications options utilized over time by the subscriber upon access to the database.

174-175 Canceled.

176. (Currently Amended) A method of operating an active user registry service accessible over a communications network, comprising the steps of
a. receiving a request for communications contact information corresponding to a user;
b. searching a database containing communications information for contacting the user including a user identifier, a plurality of communications addresses and information corresponding to the user's preferred communications options; and
c. determining a communications address for contacting the user in accordance with a comparison between a communications option accompanying the request and the user's preferred communications options;

~~The method according to claim 145, wherein the information corresponding to the user's preferred communications options is automatically learned in accordance with how the user interacts with communication attempts from other persons.~~

177-182. Canceled.

183. (Previously Presented) A method of operating an active user registry service accessible over a communications network, comprising the steps of:

- a. receiving a request for communications contact information corresponding to a user;
- b. searching a database containing communications information for contacting the user including a user identifier, a plurality of communications addresses and information corresponding to the user's preferred communications options; wherein the user's preferred communications options are automatically learned in accordance with how the user interacts to communications from other persons; and
- c. determining from the database a communications address for contacting the user.

184. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 183, wherein the user identifier includes information representing at least one of the user's identity, the user's title, the user's occupation or personal information corresponding to the user.

185. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 183, wherein the plurality of communications addresses includes an address for contacting the user by telephone, an address for contacting the user by e-mail, an address for contacting the user by facsimile, and a current address for making direct communications contact with the user.

186. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 185, wherein the plurality of communications addresses further includes an address for contacting the user by videophone.

187. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 185, wherein the plurality of communications addresses further includes an address for contacting the user by voice messaging.

188. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 185, wherein the plurality of communications addresses further includes an address for contacting the user by real-time IP messaging.

189. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 185, wherein the plurality of communications addresses further includes a URL-compatible address for linking to a Web page associated with the user.

190. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 183, wherein the information corresponding to the user's preferred communications options includes at least one of the time of day, the day of the week, or information representing the identity of a person attempting to contact the user.

191. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 183, wherein the information corresponding to the user's preferred communications options includes information received over a communications link from a personal information source associated with the user.

192. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 183, further comprising the provision of a voice interface for enabling interaction with, and control and management of, the service from any available voice-compatible communication interface.

193. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 183, wherein the step of receiving a request for a communications address for contacting the user includes the step of retrieving from a cache maintained for a subscriber information corresponding

to an entry point to communications information for contacting the user stored in the database.

194. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 193, wherein the information stored in the cache maintained for a subscriber is updated in accordance with a pattern of communications options utilized over time by the subscriber upon access to the database.

195-202. Canceled.